

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
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INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /081 W  
-----034116 061728Z /43

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3823

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH SAYS ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE POSSIBLE,  
HINTS ELECTIONS MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE BY DECEMBER 31

1. SUMMARY: IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A SOUTH AFRICAN DAILY,  
SMITH REPORTEDLY SAID AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE WAS POSSIBLE  
IF "THE RIGHT CONDITIONS.. COULD BE CREATED." HE ALSO SAID  
HE HOPED TO HAVE ELECTIONS BY DECEMBER 31 BUT "NOBODY IN  
THE WORLD CAN ... GUARANTEE THAT SORT OF THING." SMITH ALSO  
REPORTEDLY STATED NO MORE SUPPORT COULD BE ASKED OF THE SAG  
THAN HAD ALREADY BEEN GIVEN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE "CITIZEN" ON JULY 6 RAN AN "EXCLUSIVE" INTERVIEW  
WITH PRIME MINISTER SMITH WHICH TOUCHED ON A VARIETY OF  
SUBJECTS.  
ONE QUOTE FROM SMITH, APPARENTLY DRAWN FROM THE INTERVIEW,  
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BUT RUN ONLY BY SABC RADIO, SAID THAT THE "ROAD TOWARDS  
A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA WILL BE A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT  
WITHOUT AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE. IN THE PRESENT CIR-  
CUMSTANCES THERE WOULD BE NO FUTURE IN A CONFERENCE AS  
PROPOSED BY THE UK AND THE US. BUT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED  
SHOULD STILL BE HOPEFUL THAT THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR  
SUCH A CONFERENCE COULD BE CREATED." THE RADIO REPORT

SAID SMITH ADDED THAT IF THE CONFERENCE WOULD PRODUCE RESULTS AND HELP RHODESIA, HE WOULD ATTEND.

3. IN OTHER SEGMENTS OF THE INTERVIEW CARRIED IN THE CITIZEN, SMITH SAID THAT THERE WAS "STILL QUITE A LOT OF

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GROUND" TO COVER IN IMPLEMENTING A CEASEFIRE AND HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE PROGRESS BUT "I HOPE THE POSITION IS GOING TO IMPROVE." HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE "TO FACE UP TO" THE TASK OF REMOVING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OR "EVEN OUR BEST AND STRONGEST FRIENDS IN THE WORLD ARE UNABLE TO TRY TO DEFEND US." HE WENT OF TO SAY THAT HE HOPED TO MEET THE DECEMBER 31 ELECTION DEADLINE, "BUT NOBODY IN THIS WORLD CAN GIVE YOU A GUARANTEE OVER THAT SORT OF THING, NOT ONLY IN RHODESIA BUT ANYWHERE ELSE." SMITH ALSO SAID THAT HE FELT THERE WAS NOTHING MORE THE SAG COULD DO TO ASSIST THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT THAN WAS NOW BEING DONE. "THEY HAVE GIVEN US THEIR BLESSING," HE SAID, "THE HAVE OPENLY STATED THAT THEY SUPPORT THIS AGREEMENT AND THAT THEY WILL DO WHAT THEY CAN TO HELP US TO SUCCEED IN IMPLEMENTING IT. I DOUBT WHETHER WE CAN ASK FOR MORE THAN THAT."  
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## Message Attributes

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